



Arlington Recycling Committee
Minutes of 11/3/16

PRESENT

Members: Co-Chair Juli Brazile, Co-Chair Gordon Jamieson, Larry Slotnick, Paul Goldberg, Karen Einstein, Recycling Coordinator Charlotte Milan

Residents: Pete Howard, DPW Director Mike Rademacher

MINUTES of 10/6/16 approved as printed.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT: Charlotte reported that her projections for FY 2017 are similar to last year. We must reduce our trash by 13% to reach our 2020 diversion goal. She has begun a food scrap pilot program. There is a School Sustainability Coordinator, paid by the state grant from the Recycling Center program, who has visited all the schools and is drafting a comprehensive program for the schools.

DISCUSSION WITH MIKE RADEMACHER: Gordon presented a recommendation that the curbside trash barrel limit be reduced from 3 to 2 (Ref 2). He showed the history of annual trash sent to be incinerated from 19000 T before 2004 to under 13000 T FY 2013 where it has hovered ever since. A further reduction of about 2000 T is needed to meet our 2020 goal. Of our total solid waste, Gordon calculated 59% is incinerated and 41% is recycled. Using national solid waste audit figures, he calculated that 58% of the incinerated trash could have been recycled. Then using results from the 2014 Vision 2020 survey, he figured that 8% of the trash incinerated was collected from residents using 3 barrels. If those residents would convert to using 2 barrels, at least in part by recycling more, the total diversion would be increased by, Gordon suggested, 1000 T. Mike, using the same data, suggested 58% of that or 580 T. Gordon requested the 3 barrel limit be reduced to 2 barrels, thus forcing 8% of all residents to change their habits. Mike thinks there would be a huge backlash as residents would see the change as taking away a service whether they used it or not. This would risk crippling support for revenue increases for other needs. He pointed out that the savings would be modest and the Town would still be a long way, perhaps 1420 T, from the 2020 goal. There was a general discussion of how to get better data or how to encourage use of one barrel. All believe that one barrel is usually sufficient for even larger households. The trash audit being planned in Belmont may provide useful data. The Vision 2020 survey in 2018 could help. An on line survey is another option. Mike thanked the ARC for its efforts and urged them to continue.

RECYCLE RIGHT: Juli reviewed plans (Ref 3) for future articles. She suggested changes to which the membership agreed. Juli will circulate a revised plan. Note that the Advocate now wants articles on Friday rather than Monday before the Thursday issue.

BUSINESS RECYCLING: Pete provided a tally (Ref 4) of the survey responses received over the summer. He made a few observations but did not review the results in detail. He noted that in general most businesses recycle, though only half as many responses were received compared to 2014. The questions were not asked in quite the same way so comparisons should be treated with care. The tally included most of the written comments provided. They suggest steps the ARC could take to help businesses recycle.

UPDATE BOARD OF SELECTMEN: Gordon spoke to the Board on 10/30. He requested a Recycling Week Proclamation. He described the new CCD plan. He told them about the current state of waste diversion in Arlington. The ARC sees this annual presentation as a way to promote recycling in Arlington via both the Board and the TV coverage of the Board's meeting.

RECYCLING CONTAINERS: Larry has inquired about the cost of 32 gal containers. He has received one quote of \$31 for a good quality container when purchased in bulk. Some members think this is worth pursuing but there are some regulations to consider. The topic was not explored in detail because of lack of time. Larry will continue to investigate.

NEXT MEETING 12/1/16 – Most meetings 1st Thursday monthly at 7:30 PM in Town Hall Annex 1st Floor

Ref 1 Coordinator's Report

Ref 2 Reduce the Curbside Trash Barrel Limit from 3 to 2

Ref 3 Recycle Right Planned Article Schedule

Ref 4 2016 Recycling Questionnaire Result